State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلـسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Sunday 21st April 2024

198 days of the Israeli aggression against Gaza

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

Catastrophic situation in numbers; the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7th until April 21st, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Saturday evening, 20th of April 2024.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine because of Israeli occupation aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to genocide on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. Tangible advocacy and pressure for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in Gaza:

- As of April 20, 2024, the number of martyrs in Gaza since October 7, 2023 is more than 34,050 Palestinians as a result of Israeli occupation aggression, with a staggering 72% being women (over 9,100) and children (over 14,000). The indiscriminate nature of Israeli occupation attacks has led to widespread civilian casualties, raising serious concerns about violations of international humanitarian law.
- 14 Palestinians were martyred by the aggression of the Israeli occupying forces against the city of Tulkarm and the Nur Shams camp, which lasted for more than 48 hours, and an ambulance driver was shot by the occupying forces in the course of his humanitarian duty to evacuate wounded people who were shot by settlers in the village of Sawya, south of Nablus
- Over 77,000 Palestinians have been injured as a result of the Israeli occupation aggression, many of whom suffer from severe trauma and life-threatening injuries. The lack of access to adequate medical care exacerbates their suffering.

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against

[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/

[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6IvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM-D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

- It is estimated that estimated 8,100 individuals still missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings.
- Khan Younis, one of the hardest-hit areas recently, bears witness to profound destruction, including damage to homes, schools, hospitals, health facilities and critical infrastructure. The withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces has left a trail of devastation, rendering essential services inaccessible to the local population.
- The targeting of vital medical facilities, such as Nasser, Al Amal, and Al Khair hospitals, further compounds the crisis, depriving civilians of lifesaving treatment and exacerbating the strain on Gaza's already fragile healthcare system.
- The UN reports dire shortages of food, water, and essential supplies, leaving civilians vulnerable to hunger, thirst, and disease.
- The presence of unexploded ordnance poses additional risks to public safety, hindering efforts to deliver humanitarian aid and provide essential services to those in need.

Forced Displacement:

- The ongoing Israeli aggression has led to a mass forced displacement of civilians, with an estimated 85% of Gaza's population (around 1.93 million individuals) forcibly displaced from their homes. The sheer scale of displacement has overwhelmed existing infrastructure and strained resources, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.
- Nearly 1.4 million displaced persons seek refuge in UNRWA facilities, where overcrowding and limited resources further compound their plight. The lack of adequate shelter, sanitation, and healthcare facilities exacerbates their vulnerability and exposes them to heightened risks of disease and injury.
- Intensified attacks force thousands to flee further south towards Rafah, exacerbating overcrowding and stretching available resources to their limits. At the same time, reports indicate population movements out of Rafah towards Deir Al Balah and Nuseirat refugee camps, highlighting the fluidity and complexity of displacement patterns in the region.

Healthcare Access and Challenges:

- Gaza's healthcare system has been under direct attack by the Israeli occupation and is suffering since October 7th. Only 10 hospitals are partially functional and struggling to meet the overwhelming demand for medical services. The persistent targeting of medical facilities and personnel by Israeli occupation forces has left the healthcare system in a state of disarray, depriving civilians of essential lifesaving treatment.
- Efforts to scale up life-saving assistance and restore the health system are being hampered by limited access, mission denials, and ongoing security challenges, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Hospitals like Al Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza are overwhelmed, lacking essential supplies, and in need of international emergency medical teams to support surgeries. WHO reports a significant rise in cases of infectious diseases, including acute respiratory infections, scabies, and lice, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive healthcare

interventions. The lack of medical points in shelters further exacerbates the challenges faced by displaced persons, many of whom suffer from underlying health conditions and injuries.

- Critical shortages of medical personnel and supplies, including anesthesia, antibiotics, and blood products, further compound the crisis, leaving healthcare workers struggling to save lives amidst overwhelming odds. The situation is particularly dire in Rafah, where the influx of displaced persons has exceeded available hospital bed capacities, exacerbating the strain on already stretched resources.

Acute shortage of medical supplies and health professionals at health facilities:

- There is a severe shortage of medical personnel in most health facilities and hospitals with an ever-increasing demand due to the continues Israeli occupation attacks and the public health catastrophe resulting from the attacks, forcible displacement, and restrictions policies.
- Medicine and medical supplies such as anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products are in short supply. Hospitals are experiencing a decline in the functionality of electrically dependent medical equipment such as monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT machines, lab analyzers, and anesthesia machines.
- There is a substantial shortage of essential medication and healthcare services for all who are suffering from NCDs, in addition to the challenging access conditions.
- Due to the destruction of the health system, the extreme lack of resources, and arbitrary constraints on assistance entering Gaza imposed by the Israeli occupation, doctors have been forced to make difficult choices, such as deciding between sedating a patient to intubate them or treating a seizure with the same medication.

Public Health Crisis:

- A public health catastrophe is continuing to unfold in the Gaza Strip due to using unsafe water resources, overcrowding and lack of basic hygiene needs as a result of the Israeli occupation, this requires urgent action.
- Northern Gaza has recorded the highest levels of catastrophic hunger, with malnutrition rates among children under two doubling from 16% in January to 31% in February.
- The cessation of operations at the water desalination plant in northern Gaza has left the population without access to safe drinking water, exposing them to heightened risks of waterborne diseases and dehydration.
- The dire water and sanitation conditions along with the overcrowding that resulted from the forced displacement have led to a surge in cases of acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhea, and malnutrition, particularly among children and the elderly. The lack of access to basic healthcare services further compounds their suffering, leaving them vulnerable to preventable illnesses and premature death.
- Older individuals, in particular, bear a disproportionate burden of the crisis, facing increased risks of hunger, dehydration, illness, and mortality. The enduring repercussions of Israeli aggression and displacement have left them with diminished access to crucial health and social services, exacerbating their vulnerability and isolation.

- Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis. On Monday the a mass grave in Al Shifa hospital was discovered, some of the people who had been killed and buried by the Israeli occupation forces appear to have been patients at the hospital and had medical bandages and catheters attached to their bodies.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:

- Public health concerns are reportedly mounting across Gaza, disproportionately affecting women. This is due to continued bombardment, the lack of essential food and water supplies, the collapsing health system, and limited access to those in need of urgent assistance. On 16 February, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) emphasized the vulnerabilities facing women: "Everyone in Gaza is hungry, including 50,000 pregnant women, with malnutrition making them more susceptible to disease and less able to recover." Underscoring the immense risks facing pregnant women in Gaza, UNFPA warned: "If the bombs don't kill pregnant women, if disease, hunger and dehydration don't catch up with them, simply giving birth could."
- Approximately 20,000 infants are born into the devastating impacts of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. There is around 52,000 Pregnant women, and around 183 Births per day.
- Following the Israeli occupation's attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel, the available resources for assisting expectant mothers and their newborns have dramatically decreased, forcing some to give birth in makeshift tents and unsanitary locations.
- Newborn in Gaza are dying due to their mothers' inability to access prenatal and postnatal examinations amidst relentless bombings, forced displacements, and heightened anxiety, resulting in premature deliveries.
- Health workers report a significant increase in the rate of miscarriages, stillbirth, and preterm deliveries since the commencement of Israeli attacks on Gaza.
- New reports from Mental Health and Child Protection experts from Save the Children emphasized that the absence of normal protective factors like stable routines and opportunities for play, which typically prevent severe and long-lasting mental health conditions, has been observed in Gaza. The current conditions in Gaza present classic risk factors for enduring mental harm in children. These adverse circumstances have led to a significant deterioration in the mental health of children, surpassing levels seen in previous escalations.[4]
- Symptoms of severe emotional distress and trauma, including fear, anxiety, disordered eating, bedwetting, hyper-vigilance, and sleep disturbances, were reported. Also, behavioral changes such as introversion, separation anxiety, alterations in attachment styles with parents, regression, and aggression were also noted.

Recorded Attacks on Health Facilities and Personnel:

- Since October 7, 2023, there have been 378 recorded attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel by Israeli forces, constituting blatant violations of international humanitarian law. The deliberate targeting of medical infrastructure and personnel has left civilians without access to

[4] https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Trapped-and-Scarred-Final.pdf/

essential healthcare services, exacerbating their suffering and prolonging the humanitarian crisis.

- 32 hospitals and 35 health care centers were out of service as a result of their targeting by the Israeli occupying forces.
- 490 personnel were martyred in the health sector, more than 310 were arrested by the Israeli occupying forces, 770 were injured and 126 ambulances were destroyed by the occupying forces in attacks by the Israeli occupying forces. The heavy losses to health-care workers underscore the urgent need for international intervention to protect medical facilities and personnel and to ensure that civilians in Gaza and the West Bank have access to basic health-care services.
- The Nasser Medical Complex, once the second-largest referral hospital in the Gaza Strip, has been destroyed, leaving a vacuum in healthcare provision. The destruction includes damage to equipment, machinery, and essential medicines and supplies.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) highlights the devastating impact of the conflict on health workers, with 489 personnel martyred and 770 injured in attacks by Israeli forces. The staggering toll on healthcare workers underscores the urgent need for international intervention to protect medical facilities and personnel and ensure access to essential healthcare services for civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Situation in the West Bank:

- The escalation of aggression by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank has resulted in a sharp increase in casualties and displacements, compounding the humanitarian crisis in the region. Since October 7, 2023, 485 Palestinians have been martyred, and about 4,900 have been injured across the West Bank and Jerusalem, underscoring the pervasive violence and instability plaguing the region.
- WHO reports over 340 attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel in the West Bank since October 7, 2023, highlighting the systematic targeting of medical infrastructure and personnel by Israeli forces. The deliberate obstruction of healthcare services constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and exacerbates the suffering of civilians in the region.
- The Israeli occupation's intensified movement restrictions have further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the West Bank, limiting access to essential healthcare services for the population. The widespread displacement of Palestinians, coupled with the destruction of residential structures and infrastructure, has left thousands without access to basic necessities and exposed them to heightened risks of disease, injury, and death.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians to prevent further loss of life and alleviate human suffering.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws to protect health institutions and civilians from attacks and ensure access to essential healthcare services.

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- Unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza to address critical shortages and meet the urgent needs of the civilian population.
- Assistance in evacuating the wounded in need of treatment abroad to access lifesaving medical care and alleviate the strain on Gaza's overwhelmed healthcare system.
- Halting forcible displacement of civilians and supporting search and rescue operations to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations.